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10 April 1967

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : CIA Memorandum, "Possible Role of
Easter Island in Soviet Planning
For Military or Space Activities"

1. The attached memorandum advances some possible reasons for the USSR's recent manifestations of interest in Chile's remote Easter Island.

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/s/ R. J. Smith

R. J. SMITH
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:

(Copy No. 7)

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Possible Role of Easter Island in Soviet
Planning for Military or Space Activities

1. The Soviet Union has shown a puzzling interest in Chile's Easter Island for several years. As early as 1958 a Soviet shipborne party established the geodetic position of the island, and in 1964 the Soviets announced that it would be included in a program for a unified worldwide triangulation network using a geodetic satellite. Last month the Soviet ambassador in Santiago asked to visit the island. At the same time he proposed an exchange of visits by military personnel between Chile and the USSR--a proposal viewed dimly by the Chilean defense minister. This is the first known Soviet effort to develop military relations with any Latin American state other than Cuba.

2. This interest in such a small and remote island in the South Pacific sparked an inquiry into Moscow's possible objectives.



NOTE: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence with the assistance of the Office of Basic Intelligence, the Office of Research and Reports, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

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